

A RESOLUTION urging the Governor to appoint the Tennessee Council on Long-Term Care.

WHEREAS, the projected increase in the elderly population and the fact that more Americans are living longer with chronic disabilities has generated considerable interest in finding a better way to provide long-term care; and

WHEREAS, the need for a comprehensive and coordinated long-term care system, integrated with the delivery of medical care, is one of the most serious issues facing our society; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of long-term care services is to enable older people to live in their own homes and remain independent as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, long-term care can be a major expense for many older people and their families; and

WHEREAS, the state carries a substantial responsibility for long-term care by administering federal and state funds appropriated for the TennCare and Medicaid programs and by regulating nursing homes and home health agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Long-Term Care Committee of the Tennessee Commission on Aging had discussed with the previous administration the possible establishment of a task force to develop a plan for improving the provision of long-term care services for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the results of such discussions were very positive, and the administration asked the Committee to work with consumer advocacy groups in developing a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of such task force, including the details of membership thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Long-Term Care Committee has subsequently met with representatives of aging and disability-related consumer advocacy organizations, and the two parties have drafted a comprehensive proposal to create the Tennessee Council on Long-Term Care; and

WHEREAS, this is the time to act on this proposal, which is of vital concern to all citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby urges and encourages the Governor to appoint the members of the Tennessee Council on Long-Term Care (referred to hereinafter as "the Council"), to be composed of representatives of both providers and consumers of long-term care, with the majority of the members representing consumers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor is urged to appoint the members of the Council, and fill vacancies thereon, from a list of nominees submitted jointly by the Long-Term Care Committee of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and aging and disability-related consumer advocacy organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor is urged to attach the Council for administrative purposes to the Tennessee Commission on Aging, which shall provide office space, telephone service and secretarial support to the Council. The Office of the Governor is encouraged to provide the majority of the funding for the operation of the Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in establishing the Council, the Governor is urged to establish procedures to assure additional statewide grassroots participation and input.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all governmental agencies which develop, provide or regulate long-term care services are urged and encouraged to provide assistance to the Council upon the request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee.